

Application No.: 10/074874

Case No.: 57202US002

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 2, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 4 with the word "While" and ends on line 11 with the word "polarizers" with the following amended paragraph:

While K-type polarizers can be made by conventional acid processes, these processes necessarily involving the handling of, and potential exposure to, hazardous quantities of acid, usually hydrochloric acid. Additionally, the vapor-phase acid processes can result in non-uniform catalytic dehydration, which can lead to streaking or mottling of the polarizer, rendering it unsuitable for many precision optical applications. See, for example U.S. 5,973,834 5,773,834 (Kadaba et al.). Hence, there is a need for a process for preparing K-type polarizers that does not use large quantities of hazardous and corrosive acids (such as HCl vapors) to effect dehydration and can produce high quality, uniform polarizers.